investigation of Master Plan for 13 tributaries and 27 drainage schemes and operationalisation of North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI) at Guwahati.

(b) The grant-in-aid provided and utilised by the Board during the above periods in crore of Rupees are 9.15, 12.65 and 12.99 respectively.

Irrigation Facilities in Assam

2779. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the allocation made by the Government for providing irrigation facilities for rural areas of Assam during the last five years and the amount asked for "in the Sate for this purpose during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O)F AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): Plan allocations made to the Government of Assam against the amount asked for providing irrigation facilities through Major, Medium and Minor irrigation projects in the State during the last five years are as under:

Year	Amount asked"* for by the State Government (Rs. in crore)	Amount allocated by Planning Commission (Rs, in crore)
1994-95	63.65	63.65
1995-96	66.00	67.00
1996-97	99.60	99.60
1997-98	104.58	104.58
1998-99	122.59	122.59

In addition to Plan allocations as above, Central Assistaance ha* also been provided to Government of Assam under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) for rural poor for creation of assets in the form of open or dug wells/irrigation sources. The details of Central allocation to the Government of Assam during the last *3* years are as under:

Year	Cental allocation (Rs. in crore)
1996-97	11.44
1997-98	11.44
1998-99	32.38

Creation of Garland Canal

2780. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the annually recurring devasting floods in different rivers of the country cause incalculable loss of life, property, cattle heads and crops, besides creating serious health hazards;

(b) whether some years ago there was a proposal to create a "Garland Canal" by interlinking all the major rivers of the country with the twin objectives of solving the flood problem as well as of channelizing water resources for human benefit; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive that proposal now and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER/OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Floods of varying intensities occur in most of the rivers of the country every year causing loss of life, property, cattle heads and crops.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government does not propose to revive the Garland Canal proposal. Two Committees' comprising Experts from Central Water Commission and State Governments and Professors from technical institutions examined the proposal and found it to be impractical and economically prohibitive.